REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-9, 12 and 13 have been amended. Claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 14-19 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-9, 12 and 13 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Stitz et al. (US 6,105,724) (hereinafter "Stitz").

Claims 1-7

Amended claim 1 recites: "...wherein the preset condition is associated with the rotational speed of the rolling bearing assembly, and the amount of the lubricant oil to be supplied is preset for each of a plurality of divided rotational speed regions of the rolling bearing assembly and one of the preset amounts of the lubricant oil to be supplied is selected according to an input information on the rotational speed." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claims 10 and 11.

In contrast to claim 1, Stitz discusses at 5:38-5:50 that the amount of the lubricant to be supplied is adjusted by comparing the actual value of the temperature with the basic adjustment which has been predetermined from empirical values. However, the present invention as recited in claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Stitz because the rotational speed, not the temperature, is a parameter by which the amount of lubricant to be supplied is adjusted.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that Stitz does not discuss that the range of rotational speed is divided into a plurality of rotational speed regions, for example, three regions such as low, medium and high speed regions. According to claim 1, the amount of lubricant to be supplied is preset for each of the divided rotational speed regions and the actual amount of lubricant is changed to the preset amount of lubricant in dependence on an actual input information of the rotational speed. In contrast, in Stitz, the amount of lubricant is changed in dependence on the actual input value representative of the temperature, as is discussed in Stitz, 5:38-5:50.

This technical feature of claim 1 provides the advantage of simplifying the adjustment of the amount of lubricant by dividing the rotational speed into a plurality of rotational speed regions and presetting the amount of lubricant for each of the rotational speed regions while

securing the reliability of lubrication. In contrast, Stitz provides a lubricating method which requires a complicated adjustment.

Claims 2-7 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 2-7 have been amended to improve the form of the claims. No new matter has been added.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

Claims 8-13

Amended claim 8 recites: "...wherein the preset condition is associated with the rotational speed of the rolling bearing assembly, and the amount of the lubricant oil to be supplied is preset for each of a plurality of divided rotational speed regions of the rolling bearing assembly and the supply adjusting unit is operable to select one of the preset amounts of the lubricant oil to be supplied according to an input information on the rotational speed." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claims 10 and 11.

In contrast to claim 8, Stitz discusses at 5:38-5:50 that the amount of the lubricant to be supplied is adjusted by comparing the actual value of the temperature with the basic adjustment which has been predetermined from empirical values. However, the present invention as recited in claim 8 patentably distinguishes over Stitz because the rotational speed, not the temperature, is a parameter by which the amount of lubricant to be supplied is adjusted.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that Stitz does not discuss that the range of rotational speed is divided into a plurality of rotational speed regions, for example, three regions such as low, medium and high speed regions. According to claim 8, the amount of lubricant to be supplied is preset for each of the divided rotational speed regions and the actual amount of lubricant is changed to the preset amount of lubricant in dependence on actual input information of the rotational speed. In contrast, in Stitz, the amount of lubricant is changed in dependence on the actual input value representative of the temperature, as is discussed in Stitz, 5:38-5:50.

This technical feature of claim 8 provides the advantage of simplifying the adjustment of the amount of lubricant by dividing the rotational speed into a plurality of rotational speed regions and presetting the amount of lubricant for each of the rotational speed regions while securing the reliability of lubrication. In contrast, Stitz provides a lubricating method which requires a complicated adjustment.

Claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 9, 12 and 13 depend on claim 8 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 9, 12 and 13 have been amended to improve the form of the claims. No new matter has been added.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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